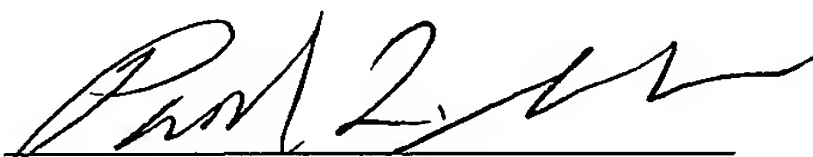


It is respectfully submitted that the instant Application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing the above, the Examiner believes any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By 

PLS/wdw
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000

Paul L. Sharer
Reg. No. 36,004
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2180
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX: VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 22 has been added.